

Halibut Fishing '97



Highlights of 1996

Another great year of fishing, lots of big fish and good weather most of the summer. The "Gusto" ran like a dream and once again, we had no mechanical down days. The luckiest fishermen of the year were the Clyde family who came together from all over the country to do a little fishing and fish they did! They went out with me two consecutive days and brought home a total of 1,857 pounds of delicious halibut; a 78 pound average (and about \$8000 worth at the grocery store)! But for the fourth year running a woman caught the biggest fish of the year. Joanne Simmons of Soldotna caught a 240 pounder on July 1st. Andre Payette of Eagan, Minnesota almost overtook her on August 14 but was one pound shy. His two fish for the day weighed in at 239 and 133 and he picked up \$500 in Halibut Derby money to boot. His father picked up a 187 the same day. In early September, Junichi Tominaga and his friends came all the way from Kitakushu, Japan to try their luck and had a beautiful sunny day and a 225 pounder. They actually made a full sized fish print of the nearly 7 foot fish on linen and it came out beautifully.

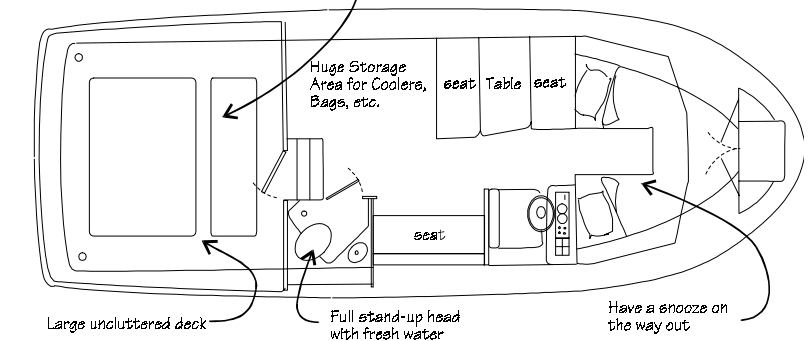
I hope you all can get on a computer and visit my Web site. I've put a lot of work into it and you can find out just about everything about fishing on the "Gusto" and about the local area, tides, weather, and lodging. I just updated everything so let me know what you think. The address is <http://www.alaska.net/~gusto>. Many dates have already been booked for the '97 season so request the "Gusto" soon and let's go pull some lip! The biggest one's still out there!



June 27, 1996 - 1,110 pounds total
The Clyde family hooks 5 over 100# and the next day they went out again and brought in a 747# total with another 150 pounder

The "GUSTO" was custom built to my specifications on the hull mold of the Glasply 30 especially for the Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet halibut charter fishery with safety, speed, convenience and roominess in mind. She's powered by twin Volvo TAMD41 200 HP turbo diesels delivering a 27 mph (23 knot) cruising speed to get us to those distant fishing holes fast ("less time running - more time fishing"). Navigation equipment includes Radar, GPS (Satellite Navigator) with Plotter and Differential Receiver (for 30' position accuracy), Loran C, Video Fathometer, 2 VHF Radios, and a CB Radio. Inside there's plenty of seating as well as a large storage area to keep those bags and coolers out from underfoot. Also a full stand-up head with fresh water.

6' Insulated, self-draining fish box under deck (holds up to 750# of halibut cool and fresh)



For tackle, most people like the Penn 6/0 reel loaded with 80# braided dacron (with no knot splices) with it's low gear ratio for hauling heavy weights up from the bottom. I also have Shimano TLD25 Graphite Lever Drag reels which are light weight and have smooth running Titanium drags. I have set up one set of six of these with the new "Spectra" fishing line which we switch to if the current makes it difficult to keep a line on the bottom. There is also a 4/0 lefthand reel for the "other 10% of the world". I have six sets of rain gear for those who don't have their own. As always I carry a maximum of six passengers to ensure personal service and the most enjoyable fishing. I encourage everyone, when possible, to make up their own party of six as it gives you the most flexibility in making decisions during the day. If any of you have suggestions on how to improve my service, please let me know. My business depends on getting you back year after year (and besides you're all pros your second time around!)

★ BOOKING INFORMATION ★

I'm looking forward to my 19th straight season of full-time halibut chartering out of Silver Fox Charters. Low season prices are in effect til the end of May and again from August 18 on. As always, I will be booked on a client's **request** basis. So make your reservations early by calling Silver Fox Charters at 1-800-478-8792 or write to them at Box 402, Homer, AK 99603 and **be sure to request** the "GUSTO" or me by name. If you have any further questions, please contact me personally:

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